

Newsletter  
December 2015

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2015-2016**

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**Newsletter**

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# VIEWPOINT

A Nonprofit 501(c)(3) Education Corporation

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## *Lois Kaplan, VISTAS President*

With five events in six days, VISTAS got off to a roaring start in September. Although the Fall Picnic usually leads off the season, scheduling issues at Tuckers Grove put the popular event third in line after the Documentary Film Club's initial screening of *Resistance – Not All Germs Are Created Equal*, and **Peter Beuret's Harvest Moon** seminar that prepared attendees for the eclipse of the rising Harvest Moon visible in Santa Barbara two days later.

However, before that moon rose, the sun was out and warming the nearly 100 VISTAS members who attended the fall picnic that day. In addition to a quick synopsis of upcoming classes, members reconnected with old and new friends, and enjoyed a buffet of warm weather dishes.

Several presenters gave brief introductions to the material they would be covering in their seminars. The presenters energized us, and many members signed up for classes right then and there at the picnic. **Russ Werner** went over his four-session seminar about the *Aztecs*, where he likened the Aztecs in history in part to Isis today. **Barbara Katz** discussed her two-session class on *Forgiveness*. **Peter Kruse** previewed his four-session seminar on *Legal Issues for Seniors*. **Barbara Krahn** made a push for the incredible upcoming *First Transcontinental Railroad* seminar; this four-session class begins Monday morning **January 4th**. From previews this promises to be an amazing production with loads of “*I can't believe that...*” information. **Bob Wightman** wrote a parody to *I've Been Working on The Railroad*, and the presenters sang the song at the picnic.

We were pleased to welcome back **Dr. Jay Carlander**, history professor at SBCC as he presented his three sessions about *Electing Presidents: Great Elections in American History*. He devoted his sessions to Jefferson, Jackson and Lincoln.

**Dr. David Bisno's** eight-week seminar *Race to the Poles* will be held at a new location with convenient parking and many restaurant choices for lunch. It will be downtown at the Santa Barbara County Administration Building at 123 E. Anapamu Street.

Please plan to attend as many of these classes as your time allows, you will be richer for the the experience. I look forward to seeing all of you at the upcoming Winter and Spring classes, and would also like to welcome your friends to this enriching and rewarding lineup.



## ***Ted Anagnoson, VISTAS VicePresident***

VISTAS needs volunteers to fill in when our regular volunteers go out of town or travel. We need people who are willing to stop at Spudnuts on upper State Street in Santa Barbara and pick up coffee and tea for VISTAS presentations where we supply refreshments (Maravilla, the Goleta Library). You don't necessarily have to return them the same day, and you get to meet the staff of Spudnuts, who are among the friendliest people in town. We also need people with the technical knowledge to connect and set up the computer, projector and speaker for presentations where Ben Kehela and John Calandro can't make it - the technical requirements are not that great, and you perform a really good service for the organization. VISTAS also sometimes needs volunteers to help with mailings, or assembly of course notebooks. If you can help with any of these tasks, we have a list of members who are willing to help, and you can get on the list by contacting Lynn at [vistas@silcom.com](mailto:vistas@silcom.com) or 967-6030.

***Applause for Dr. David Bisno and Santa Barbara's Clock Tower from the 2015 Governor's Historic Preservation Awards Program.*** The Santa Barbara Courthouse Clock project involved the restoration of the Courthouse tower's 1929 clock, and the rehabilitation of a storage room into an interpretive clock gallery. The project had strong community support, especially from timepiece enthusiasts, ***Dr. David Bisno*** and ***Mr. Dick Schall***, who together, fully funded the project. The tower clock is one of the few fully mechanical clocks still in operation in the United States.

For the full article go to: [http://www.ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=24513](http://www.ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=24513)

## **A Sampling of Past Seminars and Events 2015 - 2016**

***The Hermitage of Santa Barbara - Virginia Gardner*** In November, VISTAS was given the honor and unique opportunity to explore and discover the whimsical and lovely Hermitage sculpture collection and botanic gardens. This event was so popular that it sold out. Hopefully we will be able to repeat it again in 2016.



***Crises in Higher Education - Don O'Dowd*** presented an outstanding interactive seminar on the hot buttons and complex issues that university educators must deal with today. He included fractious trustees, affirmative action, funding, alumni, rape and other crimes on campus. This was an interactive and stimulating series.

Please visit our web site and go to *Past Events* for further samplings of our past seminars.

<http://www.vistaslifelonglearning.org/past.html>

## **Upcoming Events**

For those of you that would like to present a seminar for VISTAS, you can attend ***Learn How to Present at VISTAS and How to Develop a VISTAS Course.*** **Ted Anagnoson** and a panel of experts will help you with your presentation skills at one session on the afternoon of January 28th. No charge for this course.

Another way to learn about VISTAS courses and how to teach them is to consult the VISTAS "Instructor's Handbook," which is on the VISTAS "Seminar Guidelines" web page up at the top. It contains sections on how typical courses are taught and developed, as well as hints on how to teach individual sessions.



***VISTAS Documentary Film Club*** Be sure to enroll in this very popular group; just \$25 for the season showing a variety of interesting and sometimes provocative documentary films. Films are shown at Maravilla Theater, at 2:00 pm on the third Thursday of each month.

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## On The Horizon - Upcoming Seminars

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### FIRST TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROAD

*Barbara Krahn*

January 4, 11, 18, and 25 (9:30 am)

Our crew of storytellers will present the steps in building the first transcontinental railroad and will discuss the difficulties of the times and the process. You will learn of scandalous schemes, celebrations, and fabulous feats of engineering in building trestles to bridge gaps or tunneling through granite to the other side of a mountain. *Spoiler Alert: one segment "Hell on Wheels" is about sex.*



### RACE TO THE POLES

*Dr. David Bisno*

Eight Weeks - Feb 2 - March 22 (9:00 am)

At the dawn of the 20th Century, the North and South Poles were coveted prizes in the fiercely nationalistic age of exploration. Driving ambitions involved uncommon courage by unusual personalities. Relentless quest for glory and fortune went beyond the bounds of normal reason. We will discuss and compare inspirational and implacable men with unrelenting wills to reach intangible and impossible goals. Dr. Bisno will develop psychological portraits to understand, if not admire, each individual. Join us for an intensive, intellectual journey North and South.



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### DAMMING THE COLORADO RIVER

*Dick Norwood*

January 13th (9:30 am)



This talk will describe the twists and turns of the search for Los Angeles water and the ultimate process of tapping the Colorado River, which led to the construction of Hoover Dam.

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### CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND POLITICAL POLARIZATION

*Ted Anagnoson*

February 18, 25, & March 3 (9:30 am)

Ted will present the rules on campaign finance contributions and the role of the Supreme Court in changing them. He will talk about the political polarization that has affected both political parties in Washington, in the state capitals, and to a lesser extent, even in the electorate.



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### STRATEGIC ARCHITECTURE OF VICTORY & DEFEAT - WWII KOREA, VIETNAM & IRAQ PART 1

*John Caldwell*

January 20, 27, February 3, & 10 (9:30 am)

This course answers the questions of how and why the United States won World War II, fought to a stalemate in Korea, lost in Vietnam, and failed in Iraq. The World War II victory is the historical benchmark against which to evaluate the conflicts after 1945.



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### ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

*Dr. Sarah Case*

February 15th (1:30 pm)

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### SHORT STORY SEMINAR

*Gene Waller*

Four weeks starting March 9th (1:30 pm)

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### CATHERINE THE GREAT

*Barbara Margerum*

Three weeks starting April 11th

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**Margie Churchill:**  
**VISTAS Membership & Hospitality Chair**

Margie reminds us that keeping our membership active and growing is a team effort. She

points out that the number and variety of seminars scheduled in 2015-2016 provides a perfect opportunity for members to involve friends who enjoy rich and stimulating ideas and subjects. VISTAS makes it easy, members can comp a guest for *one session* of any seminar that they are enrolled in and attending. Just be sure to contact Lynn Shively to reserve a space for your guest.

Membership and hospitality go hand in hand, which is why you'll find Margie presiding over the refreshment table at class breaks. But this is also a team effort and VISTAS warmly thanks those members, particularly Virginia Cochran who have been generous in providing cookies or other snacks at seminars they attend. VISTAS provides the beverages and reimburses for out-of-pocket expenses upon submission of receipts. To volunteer please check the box at the bottom of the registration form when you sign up.



**Email Membership** fees are discounted to \$35 for individuals and \$55 for households.

**Snail Mail** annual membership fees are \$45 for Individual and \$65 for Household. If you have an email on file, you will get both notifications.



Consider giving the gift of a VISTAS membership to your friends. A gift that lasts throughout the academic year.



*Volunteers with Lynn Shively at Maravilla and at Senior Expo - Mark Collier, Gretchen Bercaw and Allison Grosfield*



**Lynn Shively:**  
**VISTAS Business Manager**

Contact Lynn at 967-6030 or email to [vistas@silcom.com](mailto:vistas@silcom.com)

**Email Update**



If you have opted for email delivery but are *not* receiving information regularly, please contact Lynn to correct or add your address to the list.

**VISTAS Website**

Between notices you can keep up with our latest moves by checking the website: [vistaslifelonglearning.org](http://vistaslifelonglearning.org) - bookmark it for future reference. The website has course descriptions and sign up forms online. This is very useful for planning your calendar.

**Reservations**

When you find a seminar or event that you would like to attend, please print the flyer, cut out the registration form, complete it, and send in along with your check. NOTE: Most all have deadlines, if you have missed the deadline to register, please contact Lynn and find out if there is still room to attend.

**Payments**

If you are attending multiple seminars/ events you can combine the fees on one check if you would prefer. Just please note which ones on the memo part of the check, and include each registration form. *Also - watch for our upcoming new credit card acceptance on the web site.*



**Seminars**

Please be sure to check in with Lynn when you arrive, in case there is anyone on a wait list, it is important to let her know you are there. **Also** - be sure to turn off your cell phones in class.



**Name Badges**

Please wear your name badge at all VISTAS events and seminars. Contact Lynn if you need one.

**Thank You For Your Donations**



VISTAS, like other organizations, depends a great deal on donations. Your continuing support is always appreciated - Remember we are a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization.